

PRIORITY

IN 579405

Intelligence Information Cable

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
DIRECTORATE OF
OPERATIONSClassified by Recorded Reporting Officer. Exempt from General Declassification Schedule of E.O. 11652 Exemption
Category 58 (b) (2) Impossible to Determine Date of Automatic Declassification.FOIA(b) (3) - 50 USC 3024 (1) (1)
- Intelligence Sources and
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CITE [REDACTED]

DIST 13 MAY 1975

POLITICAL MATTERS

COUNTRY ARGENTINA

SUBJECT BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE RESIGNATION OF THE
ARMY COMMANDING GENERAL; EXPECTED REACTION TO THE
APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL LAPLANE AS THE NEW COMMANDER

SUMMARY

LT. GENERAL

LEANDRO ANAYA WAS INFORMED [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THAT HIS RESIGNATION AS ARMY COMMANDER WAS
DESIRED BY THE GOVERNMENT, ANAYA, WHO WAS GIVEN TO REASON FOR
THE SUDDEN DEMAND BY THE EXECUTIVE, REQUESTED AND RECEIVED AN
AUDIENCE WITH PRESIDENT MARIA ESTELAZA MARTINEZ [REDACTED] 1975[REDACTED] THE PRESIDENT CONFIRMED THE DESIRE FOR
ANAYA'S RESIGNATION AND RETIREMENT FROM THE ARMY, BUT AGAIN THE
ARMY COMMANDER WAS OFFERED NO REASON FOR HIS REMOVAL. SOME

[REDACTED] BELIEVE THAT THE PRINCIPAL REASON FOR

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THE DECISION TO DISMISS ANAYA WAS THE CONTACTS HE AND HIS STAFF
MAINTAINED WITH ARGENTINE LABOR LEADERS, WHO RECENTLY SPEAR-
HEADED AN ABORTIVE ATTEMPT TO FORCE THE REMOVAL OF JOSE
LOPEZ REGA. THE ARMY OFFICER CORPS WILL PROBABLY
ACCEPT THE APPOINTMENT OF BRIGADIER GENERAL ALBERTO NUMA
LAPLANE AS THE NEW COMMANDER, BUT THE CHANGE, AND THE
POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANCE OF THAT CHANGE, COULD EVENTUALLY ALTER
THE CURRENT CONSENSUS WITHIN THE ARMY OF SUPPORT FOR CONSTITU-
TIONAL GOVERNMENT. [REDACTED]

APG

THE REASON FOR ANAYA'S DISMISSAL WAS TO ALLOW LOPEZ REGA TO
NAME AN INDIVIDUAL OF HIS CONFIDENCE, I.E., GENERAL LAPLANE,
AS ARMY COMMANDER. END SUMMARY.

EO25x1

1. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED] THE ARGENTINE GOVERN-
MENT ANNOUNCED THAT LT. GENERAL ANAYA HAD REQUESTED TO RETIRE
AND THAT THE EXECUTIVE HAD NAMED BRIGADIER NUMA LAPLANE TO
REPLACE HIM. THE APPOINTMENT OF LAPLANE SIGNIFIES THAT THREE
MAJOR GENERALS, WHO ARE SENIOR TO HIM IN RANK, WILL ALSO RETIRE.
THEY ARE MAJOR GENERALS ERNESTO DELLA PERCE,
CHIEF OF THE JOINT GENERAL STAFF; LUIS CARLOS GOMEZ
ACENTURION, COMMANDER OF THE SECOND ARM. CORPS;

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(class/location)

(dissem controls)

AND HORACIO ANIBAL ~~X~~ R I V E R A, DIRECTOR OF MILITARY
FACTORIES,)

3. THE DEMAND BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR GENERAL ANAYA'S
RESIGNATION AS ARMY COMMANDER WAS UNEXPECTED.

AND TOLD THAT HE WAS BEING REPLACED IMMEDIATELY.

ANAYA, WHO LATER COMPLAINED THAT HE HAD NOT
BEEN GIVEN A REASON FOR HIS REMOVAL, RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD
LIKE TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT MARTINEZ DE PERON TO VERIFY THAT
THIS DECISION HAD BEEN MADE. AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENT
WAS ARRANGED AND SHE CONFIRMED
THE DESIRE OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR ANAYA'S RESIGNATION. AGAIN,
NO REASON FOR THE CHANGE WAS GIVEN TO THE FORMER COMMANDER.

4. A NUMBER BELIEVE THAT THE
PRINCIPAL REASON FOR ANAYA'S DISMISSAL WAS THE CONTACTS AND
POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS HE AND HIS IMMEDIATE STAFF MAINTAINED
WITH ARGENTINE LABOR LEADERS. ESPECIALLY LORENZO M I G U E L;

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(classification)

(dissem controls)

SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE METAL WORKERS' UNION (UOM) AND THE 62
PERONIST LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, AND CASILDO ~~HERRE~~ R E R R E R A S, *APJ*
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE GENERAL LABOR CONFEDERATION, WHO
RECENTLY SPEARHEADED AN ABORTIVE EFFORT TO FORCE THE PRESIDENT
TO DISMISS LOPEZ REGA, [REDACTED] THAT LOPEZ REGA
AND PRESIDENT MARTINEZ DE PERON FEARED SUCH CONTACT COULD
RESULT IN AN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE ARMED FORCES AND THE
LABOR MOVEMENT, WHICH COULD EVENTUALLY BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE
CURRENT ADMINISTRATION. ANOTHER REASON [REDACTED]
FOR THE DESIRE TO REPLACE ANAYA WAS THAT THE LATTER REFUSED TO
ALLOW THE ARMY TO BE USED FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES.

5. [REDACTED] DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE ABRUPT
REMOVAL OF ANAYA WILL CAUSE ANY IMMEDIATE ADVERSE REACTION
WITHIN THE INSTITUTION. LAPLANE IS EXPECTED TO BE WELCOMED
BY LOWER RANKING OFFICERS AND ENLISTED PERSONNEL AS A
POSITIVE CHANGE IN A LEADERSHIP WHICH HAS NOT BEEN RESPONSIVE
TO THEIR NEEDS. [REDACTED]

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7. 

THE REPLACEMENT OF GENERAL ANAYA BY GENERAL LAPLANE IS AN
MANEUVER BY JOSE LOPEZ REGA TO PLACE A PERSON OF HIS CONFIDENCE
IN THE POSITION OF ARMY COMMANDING GENERAL. LOPEZ REGA
INITIALLY DESIRED TO NAME LAPLANE TO THIS POSITION DURING THE
1974 PROMOTION/RETIREMENT CYCLE, I.E., IN DECEMBER 1974, BUT
HE CHANGED HIS MIND BECAUSE HE BELIEVED THE NUMBER OF SENIOR
ARMY OFFICERS WHO WOULD HAVE BEEN FORCED TO RETIRE AT THAT

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TIME MIGHT HAVE CREATED A STRONG, ADVERSE REACTION AMONG THE
OFFICER CORPS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE CHANGE IN ARMY COMMANDERS WOULD PROBABLY NOT HAVE A
SEVERE REACTION WITHIN THE ARMY IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, BUT
HE ADDED THAT HE COULD NOT BE SO OPTIMISTIC OVER THE LONGER
TERM,

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9.

[REDACTED] THE REPLACEMENT OF GENERAL ANAYA BY
GENERAL LAPLANE WAS AN UNPOPULAR MOVE BY THE GOVERNMENT IN THE
EYES OF THEIR PEERS. LAPLANE IS CONSIDERED BY THEM TO BE
A FIRM SUPPORTER OF JOSE LOPEZ REGA, WHOM MOST OF THEM DISLIKE.

[REDACTED] DO NOT BELIEVE THE CHANGE WILL
CAUSE A MILITARY COUP D'ETAT IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, BUT THEY
DO VIEW IT AS HAVING A NEGATIVE, LONG TERM IMPACT. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] BELIEVE THAT ANAYA'S DISMISSAL CAME ABOUT DURING AN
ARGUMENT ANAYA HAD WITH DEFENSE MINISTER SAVINO [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE ARGUMENT BEGAN WHEN ANAYA REFUSED TO REMOVE
THREE SENIOR ARMY OFFICERS AS SAVINO HAD REQUESTED.

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CITE

DIST 8 MAY 1975

0 Politica / matters -
COUNTRY : ARGENTINA

109-12-201

5-RTO

SUBJECT : [REDACTED] THE
STRENGTH OF THE ERP IN BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE,
DEVELOPMENTS IN TUCUMAN, AND RELATED MATTERS

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17 MAY 14 1975

~~RE~~EVOLUTIONARY WORKERS' PARTY ~~(X)PR~~ AND ITS MILITARY ARM, THE
~~PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (X)ERP~~, IN THE PROVINCE OF BUENOS
AIRES ACKNOWLEDGED THAT [REDACTED] ORGANIZATION HAD SUFFERED A SERIES
OF REVERSALS IN THE PROVINCE DURING THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS,
PRIMARILY IN THE SUPPORT AND LOGISTICAL SECTORS. [REDACTED]

EO25x1

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[REDACTED] SUCH LOSSES HAD RESULTED FROM POOR ORGANIZATION, RATHER THAN FROM POOR LEADERSHIP OR DETERIORATING MOTIVATION, AND THE FACT THAT URBAN OPERATIONS IN GENERAL HAVE BEEN NEGLECTED BY THE ERP LEADERSHIP DURING THE PAST SIX TO EIGHT MONTHS BECAUSE OF THE EMPHASIS ON GUERRILLA OPERATIONS IN RURAL AREAS. [REDACTED] URBAN OPERATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN BUENOS AIRES, WILL AGAIN RECEIVE THE ATTENTION THEY DESERVE, AND THE CONTINUED CAPABILITY OF THE ERP IN URBAN GUERRILLA WARFARE WILL SOON BE DEMONSTRATED.

2. IN LINE WITH THE RENEWED EFFORTS BY THE ERP TO CONDUCT URBAN OPERATIONS IN BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE ERP COMPANY IN BUENOS AIRES, "HEROES DEL TRELEW," CURRENTLY HAS AN ARMED AND TRAINED COMBATANT STRENGTH OF 150 INDIVIDUALS. IN ADDITION, THE ERP HAS TWO SQUADS, INDEPENDENT OF THE COMPANY, WHICH THE ERP IS USING TO FORM THE NUCLEUS OF A SECOND ERP COMPANY IN BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE. [REDACTED] COMMENT, [REDACTED] AN INDEPENDENT SQUAD CONSISTS OF EIGHT TO TEN COMBATANTS.)

3. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] MARIO ROBERTO X S A N T U C H O, SECRETARY

Argentina

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GENERAL OF THE PRT AND MILITARY COMMANDER OF THE ERP, HAD
RECENTLY BEEN IN BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
IT WAS NOT TIED TO THE PLANS OF THE ERP TO INCREASE ITS ATTACKS
IN URBAN CENTERS. [REDACTED] SANTUCHO HAS NOW RETURNED
TO TUCUMAN PROVINCE, BUT AGAIN [REDACTED] HIS RETURN
IS NOT AN INDICATION OF ANY CHANGE IN ERP TACTICS IN TUCUMAN.
IN REGARD TO TUCUMAN, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE ERP IS CONTENT TO MAINTAIN ITS BASICALLY DEFENSIVE
POSTURE AND ONLY ENGAGE THE MILITARY IF SUCH AN ENGAGEMENT IS
FORCED UPON AN ERP UNIT. THE ERP LEADERSHIP IN THAT AREA
BELIEVES THE LOCAL PEOPLE SUPPORT THE GUERRILLAS AND THAT TIME
IS ON THEIR SIDE. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] TUCUMAN IS A MAJOR ERP TRAINING LOCATION. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] FIVE ERP MILITANTS [REDACTED] EN
ROUTE TO TUCUMAN TO UNDERGO MILITARY TRAINING.

4. ON RELATED TOPICS, [REDACTED] EFFORTS
ARE ALSO BEING MADE TO REVITALIZE THE BROTHER ORGANIZATIONS
WHICH COMPRISE THE REVOLUTIONARY COORDINATING JUNTA (JCR). HE

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DIST 2 MAY 1975

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Political matters -

5 - RTO

/09-12-20,

COUNTRY : ARGENTINA

SUBJECT : ATTEMPT BY THE ERP TO FORM A LIBERATION FRONT
IN ARGENTINA TO COORDINATE TERRORISM; PROPAGANDA
EFFORTS BY THE ERP TO IMPROVE ITS URBAN IMAGE

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THE PEOPLE MAY 6 1975

REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (ERP), AND ITS POLITICAL UMBRELLA, THE
REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS' PARTY (RPT), [redacted]
RECENTLY DECIDED TO FORM A LOOSE TERRORIST CONFEDERATION, WHICH
IS TO BE CALLED THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (FLN), AS A
MEANS TO COORDINATE MORE EFFICIENTLY GUERRILLA OPERATIONS

Argentina

EO25x1

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AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT AND TO DEVELOP A COMMON STRATEGY.

[REDACTED] THE PROPOSED FRONT IS TO BE
MILITARY, NOT POLITICAL, IN NATURE, AND EACH SUPPORTING
ORGANIZATION WOULD MAINTAIN ITS OWN IDENTITY AND POLITICAL
ORIENTATION.

2. [REDACTED] THE ARMED LIBERATION.

Argentina

FORCES, "CHE" GUEVARA FACTION, (FAL/CHE) HAS ALREADY AGREED
TO JOIN THE FRONT, AND THE ERP IS [REDACTED] DISCUSSING THIS
MATTER WITH THE OTHER FAL FACTIONS AND WITH SEVERAL SMALL
TROTSKYIST GROUPS. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE OBVIOUS PURPOSE
OF THIS MANEUVER IS TO STRENGTHEN THE MILITARY CAPABILITY OF
THE ERP IN URBAN AREAS, WHICH HAS SUFFERED A DETERIORATION IN
RECENT MONTHS AS A RESULT OF ALMOST EXCLUSIVE ERP FOCUS ON
THE RURAL GUERRILLA FRONT, PARTICULARLY IN TUCUMAN PROVINCE.)

[REDACTED] COMMENT:

[REDACTED] THE ERP WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY LIKE TO HAVE
MONTONERO PARTICIPATION IN THE PROPOSED FLN, BUT IN VIEW OF
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO TERRORIST ORGANIZATION IN BOTH THE
TACTICAL AND STRATEGICAL APPROACH TO REVOLUTION IN ARGENTINA,
THIS MAY BE DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THAT THE ERP WAS ATTEMPTING TO FORM AN ALLIANCE WITH OTHER REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS IN ARGENTINA AND CREATE A PERMANENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE. THE GROUPS INVOLVED WITH THE ERP AT THAT TIME WERE PRIMARILY SMALL TROTSKYIST AND PSEUDO-TROTSKYIST ORGANIZATIONS OF LITTLE MILITARY OR POLITICAL IMPORTANCE. IT IS ASSUMED THAT THE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] EFFORT BY THE ERP TO FORM A COORDINATING COMMITTEE WAS THE FORERUNNER OF ITS CURRENT ATTEMPTS TO FORM THE FLN.)

3. [REDACTED] THE ERP WILL INITIATE A PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN IN AN EFFORT TO IMPROVE ITS REVOLUTIONARY IMAGE AND GAIN ADHERENTS AMONG URBAN AND RURAL MASSES, PART OF THIS CAMPAIGN WILL BE DEVOTED TO "TELLING THE TRUTH" ABOUT TUCUMAN BY PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTING PAMPHLETS OUTLINING BOTH ERP AND ARMY LOSSES IN THAT AREA. [REDACTED] COMMENT: PAMPHLETS OF THIS NATURE HAVE ALREADY BEEN DISTRIBUTED IN BUENOS AIRES.)

IN RELATION TO TUCUMAN, [REDACTED] THE ERP IN THAT PROVINCE REMAINS PREPARED TO FACE THE ARMY'S COUNTERINSURGENCY THRUST. [REDACTED] THE ERP HAS NO INTENTION OF SEEKING A MILITARY VICTORY IN TUCUMAN, IT MERELY

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WISHES TO OUTLAST THE ARMY AND PREVENT THE LATTER FROM DEFEATING
THE GUERRILLAS. [REDACTED] PART OF THE

PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN WILL BE TO DENOUNCE THE ARMY, THE ANTI-
COMMUNIST ALLIANCE (AAA), THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT AND FOREIGN
EMBASSIES WHICH ARE AIDING THE COUNTERINSURGENCY EFFORTS. THE
ERP IS ALSO STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF OPENING NEW RURAL
GUERRILLA FRONTS IN AN ATTEMPT TO REDUCE THE PRESSURE IN
TUCUMAN. [REDACTED] THIS IS MERELY BEING CONSIDERED

AND NO DECISION HAS BEEN REACHED. TWO POSSIBLE LOCATIONS FOR
NEW RURAL FRONTS ARE IN THE PROVINCES OF MISIONES AND CHACO,
ACCORDING TO THE ERP LEADER.

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CITE

DIST 23 APRIL 1975

COUNTRY ARGENTINA

SUBJECT DECISION BY THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (ERP)
TO REFOCUS ON URBAN TERRORISM; INTERNAL ERP ORGAN-
IZATION AND ERP VIEWS ON THE MONTONEROS

SUMMARY.

THE POLITICAL BUREAU

OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS' PARTY (PRT)

TO REFOCUS THE ATTENTION OF THE PEOPLE'S
REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (ERP), THE MILITARY ARM OF THE PRT, ON URBAN
TERRORISM IN AN ATTEMPT TO RECAPTURE THE IMAGE OF THE ERP AS
A VIBRANT REVOLUTIONARY FORCE. THE PAST ERP CONCENTRATION ON

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70 MAY 16 1975

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RURAL GUERRILLA ACTION IN THE PROVINCE OF TUCUMAN WAS JUDGED TO HAVE CAUSED A SIGNIFICANT DETERIORATION OF ERP POLITICAL STRENGTH AND CAPABILITIES IN THE CITIES, PARTICULARLY BUENOS AIRES, AND EFFORTS ARE NOW TO BE MADE TO CORRECT THIS DEFICIENCY, ALTHOUGH THE GUERRILLA FRONT IS TO CONTINUE TO BE SUPPORTED,

[REDACTED] CURRENT COMBATANT STRENGTH OF THE ERP CONSISTS OF SIX COMPANIES OPERATING IN TUCUMAN AND AN ADDITIONAL SIX COMPANIES IN THE REMAINING PROVINCES OF ARGENTINA. HE ADDED THAT THE ERP HAS A 1,000-MAN COMBATANT RESERVE IN URBAN AREAS, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE REVOLUTIONARY COORDINATING JUNTA (JCR) HAS CEASED TO EXIST FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES BECAUSE OF LOSSES SUFFERED BY CHILEAN AND URUGUAYAN REVOLUTIONARY GROUPS. END SUMMARY.

Argentina
[REDACTED] MARIO ROBERTO S A N T U C H O, SECRETARY GENERAL

OF THE PRT AND MILITARY COMMANDER OF THE ERP, [REDACTED] DECIDED THAT

THE ORIGINAL DECISION OF THE PRT/ERP TO CONCENTRATE ALMOST

EXCLUSIVELY ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL GUERRILLA WARFARE,

A DECISION WHICH WAS REACHED IN EARLY 1974, HAD NOT PRODUCED

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THE RESULTS ANTICIPATED AND HAD ACTUALLY CREATED SERIOUS
POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR THE PRT/ERP.

EO25x1

2. [REDACTED] SANTUCHO'S ORIGINAL

THESIS ON THIS SUBJECT WAS THAT SUCCESSFUL GUERRILLA WARFARE
ACTIONS WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO POLITICAL ACTION EFFORTS IN URBAN
AREAS AND, THEREBY, IMPROVE PRT/ERP CONTACT AND SUPPORT AMONG
THE ARGENTINE MASSES. THIS, IN SANTUCHO'S JUDGMENT, HAS NOT
BEEN THE CASE. PRT/ERP POLITICAL ACTION IN THE PRINCIPAL
CITIES, PARTICULARLY BUENOS AIRES, HAS BEEN NEGLECTED, AND THE
IMAGE OF THE ERP AS A REVOLUTIONARY FORCE HAS DETERIORATED
SUBSTANTIALLY SINCE [REDACTED]

SANTUCHO BELIVES THAT ERP CONCENTRATION WITH TUCUMAN DURING
THE PAST YEAR HAS BEEN DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RECENT
LOSSES SUFFERED BY THE ORGANIZATION IN BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE
AND FOR MISSED OPPORTUNITIES IN THE POLITICAL FIELD, SUCH AS
THE METAL WORKERS' STRIKE IN VILLA CONSTITUCION, WHERE THE ERP
IS NOT PLAYING A SIGNIFICANT ROLE AT THE PRESENT TIME. (FIELD
COMMENT: THE RECENT ERP LOSSES REFER TO POLICE RAIDS IN
MID-MARCH 1975 AGAINST THE REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE
PRT/ERP IN BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE, DURING WHICH MEMBERSHIP

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LISTS, SAFE SITE LOCATIONS AND IMPORTANT PRT/ERP INTERNAL DOCUMENTS WERE CONFISCATED. THE TERRORISTS ALSO LOST A NATIONAL PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION MECHANISM IN A POLICE RAID IN LATE JANUARY 1975.)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] IN VIEW OF THE POLITICAL WEAKNESS IN THE URBAN CENTERS, THE PRT/ERP HAS DECIDED TO RECONCENTRATE ITS EFFORTS ON URBAN TERRORISM, PARTICULARLY IN BUENOS AIRES AND THE FEDERAL CAPITAL. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] TO STRENGTHEN THE URBAN FRONTS IN BUENOS AIRES, ROSARIO AND SALTA, THE URBAN FRONT IN CORDOBA IS CONSIDERED TO BE IN EXCELLENT CONDITION, ALTHOUGH IT HAS BEEN RELATIVELY INACTIVE RECENTLY BECAUSE OF GOVERNMENT REPRESSION IN THE PROVINCE.

4. [REDACTED] RAID BY THE ERP AGAINST AN ARMY ARSENAL IN SAN LORENZO [REDACTED] AN EXAMPLE OF PRT/ERP DETERMINATION TO BECOME ACTIVE AGAIN IN URBAN AREAS.

[REDACTED] THE RAID [REDACTED] SUCCESSFUL IN THAT THE ERP WAS ABLE TO SEIZE ABOUT 300 WEAPONS, WHICH HE SAID WERE SUFFICIENT

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TO OUTFIT THREE ERP COMPANIES, [REDACTED] TWO ERP
COMPANIES PARTICIPATED IN THE RAID AND [REDACTED] SUFFERED
TEN COMBATANTS KILLED, WHILE 17 OF THE RAIDING PARTY ARE STILL
MISSING. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE ERP HAS SIX COMPANIES OPERATING IN TUCUMAN
PROVINCE, WITH ANOTHER SIX COMPANIES SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE
REMAINING PROVINCES OF ARGENTINA. IN ADDITION, THE ERP HAS
A 1000-MAN RESERVE COMBATANT FORCE IN URBAN AREAS. [REDACTED]

COMMENT: [REDACTED] THE STRENGTH OF
ERP COMPANIES VARIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR FUNCTIONS. GENERALLY,
AN ERP COMPANY HAS A MINIMUM STRENGTH OF 70 INDIVIDUALS AND
A MAXIMUM OF 120. THE RAID ON THE BELTRAN ARMS DEPOT WAS
CONSIDERED TO HAVE BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL. THE TERRORISTS HELD
THE DEPOT FOR ABOUT THREE HOURS AND SEIZED A LARGE NUMBER OF
WEAPONS, AMMUNITION AND OTHER MILITARY EQUIPMENT. ACCORDING TO
LOCAL PRESS ONLY TWO OF THE ATTACKING ERP MEMBERS WERE KILLED.)

5. [REDACTED] CONFIDENCE
IN THE CAPABILITY OF THE ERP TO BECOME ONCE AGAIN A DOMINANT
TERRORIST FORCE IN THE CITIES. [REDACTED] THE RECENT
LOSSES SUFFERED BY THE ERP PRIMARILY RELATED TO MATERIAL GOODS,

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EO25x1

WHICH CAN BE REPLACED, AS AN EXAMPLE, [REDACTED] THE PRT/ERP
LOST ITS BEST PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION MECHANISM AND NOW ONLY
HAS TWO OTHER FACILITIES TO HANDLE THIS TASK, NONETHELESS,
THE ERP RETAINS ITS MOST IMPORTANT ASSET, I.E., THE ERP CADRE,
AND PRT/ERP LEADERS EXPECT THE URBAN FRONTS TO BE REORGANIZED
WITHIN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME, [REDACTED] ONLY ABOUT
200 ERP MEMBERS ARE NOW BEING HELD IN DIFFERENT PRISONS
THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, [REDACTED] WITH THE
1,000 OR MORE ERP MEMBERS WHO WERE IN DETENTION DURING THE
1970-1973 PERIOD OF URBAN TERRORIST OPERATIONS.

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6. [REDACTED] TO AN AGREEMENT [REDACTED]
BETWEEN HIS PARTY AND THE MONTONEROS TO OPERATE JOINTLY AGAINST
THE ARGENTINE FORCES OF REPRESSION, SPECIFICALLY THE RIGHT-WING

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COUNTERTERROR UNITS WHICH UNDERTOOK ACTIONS IN THE NAME OF THE ARGENTINE ANTI-COMMUNIST ALLIANCE (AAA). [REDACTED] THIS AGREEMENT WAS NEVER IMPLEMENTED AND THAT IT WAS PRIMARILY THE FAULT OF THE PRT/ERP THAT THIS WAS THE CASE. [REDACTED] THE PRT/ERP DID NOT LIVE UP TO ITS END OF THE BARGAIN BECAUSE OF PREOCCUPATION WITH THE GUERRILLA STRUGGLE IN TUCUMAN, HOWEVER, WITH THE RENEWED INTEREST BY THE PRT/ERP IN URBAN TERRORISM, HE SAID THAT EFFORTS TO OPERATE AGAINST THE AAA AND THE SPONSORS OF THE AAA WOULD NOW BECOME A PRIORITY OBJECTIVE.

EO25x1

7. [REDACTED] HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THEIR POLICIES, [REDACTED] THE MONTONEROS HAD BECOME AN INSTRUMENT OF NATIONALISTIC, PETIT BOURGEOIS [REDACTED] INTERESTS AND ARE, IN EFFECT, AN ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY FORCE IN THE COUNTRY. [REDACTED] THE MONTONEROS ARE MISUSING AND MISUNDERSTAND THE CONCEPT OF ARMED STRUGGLE AND REVOLUTIONARY VIOLENCE. [REDACTED] INSTEAD OF EMPLOYING MILITARY UNITS AS AN INSTRUMENT TO ATTAIN POLITICAL OBJECTIVES, THE MONTONEROS ARE USING VIOLENCE AS A DEFENSIVE MECHANISM, I.E., ATTEMPTING TO REPRESS COUNTERTERROR WITH THEIR OWN VIOLENCE. THIS, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] WOULD ULTIMATELY BE SELF-DEFEATING, SINCE IT INVOLVES

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THE MONTONEROS IN A WAR OF ATTRITION WHICH THEY ARE CERTAIN TO LOSE. ADDITIONALLY, SUCH POLICY IS POLITICALLY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE IN THAT THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE WILL EVENTUALLY BECOME DISGUSTED OVER WHAT WILL BE REGARDED AS INDISCRIMINATE USE OF VIOLENCE.

[REDACTED] COMMENT: THE FOREGOING IS VERY SIMILAR TO CRITICISMS VOICED BY THE MONTONEROS AGAINST THE ERP DURING THE LATTER'S ASSASSINATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST ARGENTINE ARMY OFFICERS DURING LATE 1974.)

8. FINALLY, [REDACTED] THE 13 APRIL ELECTIONS IN MISIONES PROVINCE, [REDACTED] PARTICIPATION BY THE MONTONEROS IN THOSE ELECTIONS FULLY DEMONSTRATED THE BOURGEOIS NATURE OF THAT ORGANIZATION. [REDACTED] BY PARTICIPATING

IN THE ELECTIONS THROUGH THE PARTIDO AUTENTICO, THE MONTONEROS STRENGTHENED THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT AND PROVIDED IT WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN A MORAL AND POLITICAL VICTORY AT A TIME WHEN THE ECONOMY AND POLITICAL INFIGHTING HAD CAUSED A SEVERE DETERIORATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION AND STRENGTH. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE ERP REALIZES THE MONTONEROS REMAIN A VERY STRONG ORGANIZATION, BUT [REDACTED] THE OPPORTUNISTIC AND SELFISH POLITICAL TACTICS THEY ARE FOLLOWING HAD DISPARAGED THE ENTIRE

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REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT IN ARGENTINA.

COMMENT:

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IT APPEARS DOUBTFUL THAT THE

PRT/ERP WOULD BE WILLING TO COOPERATE CLOSELY WITH THE MONTONEROS
IN ITS EFFORTS TO REGAIN THE INITIATIVE IN URBAN TERRORISM.)

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CITE [REDACTED]

DIST 15 APRIL 1975

~~SECRET~~*Political matters -**S-RTO*

COUNTRY : ARGENTINA

*109-12-201*SUBJECT : CONCERN OF THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (ERP)
OVER RIGHT-WING TERROR ACTION; ERP EFFORTS TO
EFFECT RETALIATION WITH OTHER TERRORIST GROUPS*W*
012976

THE PEOPLE'S

REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (ERP) IS VERY CONCERNED OVER THE INCREASING
GOVERNMENT REPRESSION AGAINST SYMPATHIZERS AND SUPPORT
PERSONNEL OF ARGENTINE REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS; SPECIFICALLY,
THE POLITICAL MURDERS COMMITTED BY RIGHT-WING ELEMENTS UNDER THE*Argentina*~~SECRET~~*1 MAY 3 1975*

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Argentina
NAME OF THE ARGENTINE ANTI-COMMUNIST ALLIANCE (AAA). IN VIEW OF
THIS CONCERN, THE ERP CALLED A SPECIAL MEETING [REDACTED] TO
DISCUSS THE PROBLEM AND RECOMMEND SOLUTIONS. REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE ERP, FAL-CHE, MONTONEROS AND MINOR TROTSKYIST GROUPS
ATTENDED THE MEETING.

EO25x1

2. [REDACTED] THE
ERP HAD RECENTLY COMPLETED A STUDY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE AAA
AND HAD CONCLUDED THAT THEY REPRESENTED FOR THE MOST PART
SYMPATHIZERS AND MEMBERS OF SEMI-LEGAL GROUPS WHO SUPPORT
ARGENTINE TERRORIST GROUPS. THUS, WHILE THE ACTION OF THE AAA
POSED NO REAL THREAT TO THE CLANDESTINE MEMBERS OF THE ERP, IT
DOES THREATEN THE SUPPORT MECHANISM AND IS CAUSING CONSIDERABLE
CONCERN AMONG THOSE WHO COMPRISE IT. [REDACTED]

"
THIS SITUATION IS AFFECTING THE RATE OF RECRUITMENTS AND THAT
THE MORAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL FIBER OF THE ERP AND ITS PARENT
ORGANIZATION, THE REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS PARTY (PRT), WAS BEING
DESTROYED BECAUSE THEIR SUPPORT AND POLITICAL ACTION MEMBERS
COULD NOT BE PROTECTED. IN SUM, [REDACTED] THE
AAA IS EFFECTIVELY NEUTRALIZING THE MILITARY AND POLITICAL
ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE TERRORIST MOVEMENT AND THAT RIGHT-WING

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TERROR MUST BE ELIMINATED IF THE REVOLUTIONARIES ARE TO SUCCEED.

3. THE ERP THEN RECOMMENDED THE INITIATION OF A JOINT
CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE AAA, WHICH [REDACTED] SHOULD
FOCUS ON THE ARGENTINE ARMY. [REDACTED]
IDENTIFIED AND LOCATED A NUMBER OF ARMY GENERALS AND COLONELS
WHO ARE BELIEVED TO BE DIRECTING AAA OPERATIONS. THESE OFFICERS,
AS WELL AS A CIVILIAN AUTHOR OF A COUNTERINSURGENCY BOOK,
MARTINEZ CABO (FNU), ^{Argentina} WHO IS REGARDED AS THE IDEOLOGIST
OF THE AAA, ARE TO BE ASSASSINATED IN THE PROJECTED NATIONWIDE
CAMPAIGN IN THE COMING WEEKS.

4. THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FAL-CHÉ AND THE TROTSKYIST
GROUPS AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE AAA,
BUT THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MONTONEROS DECLINED TO DO SO.

[REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED] UNCLEAR AS TO
THE REASONING BEHIND THE MONTONEROS' REJECTION OF THE ERPP

[REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE MONTONEROS WERE DISAPPOINTED
WITH THE FAILURE OF THE ERP TO COMPLY WITH AN AGREEMENT TO
UNDERTAKE JOINT ACTIONS AGAINST THE AAA AND THE U.S. EMBASSY

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IN BUENOS AIRES. [REDACTED]

MONTONEROS ATTRIBUTED ERP RELUCTANCE IN THIS REGARD TO ITS
TOTAL PREOCCUPATION WITH THE GUERRILLA WARFARE STRUGGLE NOW
BEING UNDERTAKEN IN THE PROVINCE OF TUCUMAN. WHILE ON THE
SURFACE THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE TWO
REPORTS. [REDACTED] THE MONTONEROS BELIEVE THE ARGENTINE
POLICE ARE PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTIONS ATTRIBUTED TO THE
AAA. THUS, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE MONTONEROS REGARDED THIS
PROPOSAL TO MOVE AGAINST THE AAA AS AN ATTEMPT BY THE ERP TO
INVOLVE THE MONTONEROS IN THE ERP STRUGGLE AGAINST THE ARGENTINE
ARMY.)

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Political matters

DIST 1 MAY 1975

COUNTRY

ARGENTINA

SUBJECT

WIDESPREAD CORRUPTION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT
OF INDICTMENTS OF FEDERAL SECURITY (FEDERAL
POLICE INTELLIGENCE)

2025x1

SUMMARY: THE DEPARTMENT OF INDICTMENTS (COUNTER-EXTREMIST

SECTION) OF FEDERAL SECURITY (FEDERAL POLICE INTELLIGENCE) HAS BEEN THE CENTER OF CORRUPTION AND ILLEGAL ACTS WITHIN THE FEDERAL

POLICE DURING THE PAST YEAR, ACTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH

INSTRUCTIONS FROM TOP POLICE OFFICIALS, PERSONNEL OF THE DEPARTMENT

OF INDICTMENTS FIRST BEGAN TO DELAY NORMAL POLICE PROCESSING OF

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PRISONERS IN ORDER TO ALLOW HARSH INTERROGATION OF SUSPECTS, AND THEN BEGAN A PROGRAM OF ILLEGAL DETENTIONS IN WHICH CAPTURED TERRORISTS WERE TORTURED AND, ON OCCASION, KILLED. DURING SUCH ILLEGAL DETENTION RAIDS, THE POLICE OFFICERS INVOLVED WOULD FREQUENTLY STEAL ITEMS OF VALUE FOR PERSONAL PROFIT. EVENTUALLY, SUCH POLICE RAID SQUADS BEGAN TO STEAL VEHICLES TO USE IN THEIR ILLEGAL OPERATIONS. SOME OF THESE ROBBERIES WERE COMMITTED AT GUN-POINT, AND FREQUENTLY THE DRIVER OF THE VEHICLE WAS ALSO ROBBED OF MONEY AND OTHER VALUABLES. FINALLY, POLICE OFFICIALS BEGAN TO CARRY OUT ABDUCTIONS FOR RANSOM FOR PERSONAL PROFIT AND TO HELP FINANCE THEIR ILLEGAL RAIDS. THE RECENT APPOINTMENT OF SOME NEW SENIOR POLICE OFFICIALS, PARTICULARLY THE NEW CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INDICTMENTS, MAY HELP CONTROL THE CORRUPTION WHICH NOW EXISTS IN THE POLICE RANKS. END SUMMARY.

EO25x1

1. [REDACTED]

THE

DEPARTMENT OF INDICTMENTS WITHIN FEDERAL SECURITY HAS ENGAGED IN A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF CORRUPTION AND ILLEGAL ACTS SINCE MAY 1974, WHEN ALBERTO VILLAR AND LUIS ARGENTINA MARGARIDE WERE APPOINTED CHIEF AND DEPUTY CHIEF,

RESPECTIVELY, OF THE ARGENTINE FEDERAL POLICE. BOTH MEN WERE

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ORDERED UPON THEIR APPOINTMENTS TO ELIMINATE THE TERRORIST THREAT
IN THE COUNTRY, AND THEY WERE DETERMINED TO COMPLY WITH THEIR
INSTRUCTIONS AND TO USE WHATEVER MEANS NECESSARY TO DO SO.
IT WAS AT THIS TIME THAT ILLEGAL OPERATIONS AND TORTURE OF
CAPTURED SUSPECTS BEGAN TO BE MORE THAN AN OCCASIONAL OCCURRENCE.

EO25x1

2.

Argentina WHILE COMMISSIONER
INSPECTOR PEDRO A. ~~PRESTI~~ REMAINED AS CHIEF OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF INDICTMENTS, THE NUMBER OF ILLEGAL OPERATIONS
BY THIS UNIT WAS CONTROLLED TO A REASONABLE DEGREE, EVEN THOUGH
THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS RUN DIRECTLY FROM THE OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF AND DEPUTY CHIEF OF FEDERAL POLICE COMPLICATED MATTERS.
AT THIS JUNCTURE, POLICE RULES AND PROCEDURES WERE OVERLOOKED,
PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO PROCESSING OF CAPTURED SUSPECTS TO
THE COURTS. SUSPECTS BEGAN TO BE HELD "OVER THE WEEKEND" IN
FEDERAL SECURITY SO THAT INTENSIVE INTERROGATIONS COULD BE
CONDUCTED. SUCH INTERROGATIONS INCLUDED THE USE OF TORTURE.

3. IN MID-1974 PRESTI WAS APPOINTED CHIEF OF THE FOREIGN
AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT OF FEDERAL SECURITY AND WAS REPLACED BY
COMMISSIONER INSPECTOR EDUARDO ~~X R A M I R E Z~~, WHO HAD WORKED
MOST OF HIS CAREER IN CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS AND KNEW LITTLE

Argentina

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ABOUT POLICE INTELLIGENCE MATTERS, RAMIREZ WAS, HOWEVER, EXPERIENCED IN HARSH INTERROGATION TACTICS, ESPECIALLY THE USE OF THE ELECTRIC PROD, AND UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP THE INDICTMENTS DEPARTMENT SOON BEGAN TO RELY LESS ON INTELLIGENCE AND MORE ON FORCE TO COUNTER THE TERRORIST THREAT IN THE COUNTRY. IT WAS AT THIS TIME THAT POLICE OFFICIALS ALSO BEGAN TO STEAL ITEMS OF VALUE DURING ILLEGAL RAIDS, INCLUDING ON OCCASION FAIRLY LARGE SUMS OF MONEY. SINCE THOSE DETAINED WERE SLATED FOR EXECUTION, THE POLICE OFFICIALS INVOLVED WERE NOT CONCERNED THAT THEY WOULD LATER BE FACED WITH CHARGES OF THIEVERY-- OSTENSIBLY, THE RAIDS WERE MADE BY RIGHT-WING DEATH SQUADS, SUCH AS THE ARGENTINE ANTI-COMMUNIST ALLIANCE (AAA).

EO25x1

4. [REDACTED] PERSONNEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INDICTMENTS BEGAN TO STEAL PRIVATE VEHICLES TO USE IN THEIR ILLEGAL RAIDS AGAINST TERRORISTS. IN ADDITION TO SELECTING VEHICLES PARKED ON THE STREETS, THE POLICE OFFICIALS ALSO ROBBED VEHICLES AT GUNPOINT, OCCASIONALLY STEALING MONEY AND OTHER ITEMS OF VALUE FROM THE RESPECTIVE DRIVERS. IN MANY CASES THE STOLEN VEHICLES WERE TAKEN MERELY FOR THE PERSONAL BENEFIT OF THE POLICE OFFICERS INVOLVED; I.E., USING THEM

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[REDACTED]
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FOR PLEASURE DRIVES, VACATIONS, ETC., AND WERE NOT USED IN
ILLEGAL OPERATIONS. DURING THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS SOME TEN
TO 15 VEHICLES WERE STOLEN FOR THE PERSONAL USE OF POLICE
OFFICIALS. THESE AUTOMOBILES WERE LATER ABANDONED. EVENTS
DETERIORATED TO SUCH A DEGREE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDICTMENTS
THAT RAMIREZ ORGANIZED AT LEAST ONE ABDUCTION FOR RANSOM,
WHICH NETTED ABOUT THE EQUIVALENT OF U.S. \$200,000 AT THE
OFFICIAL RATE OF EXCHANGE, [REDACTED] COMMENT: ABOUT ONE-THIRD

Argentina

OF THE MONEY COLLECTED WAS REPORTEDLY PROVIDED TO CARMELO
MAYORANO, CHIEF OF FEDERAL SECURITY.) [REDACTED]

B025x1

[REDACTED]

RAMIREZ HAD ORGANIZED A KIDNAPPING FOR RANSOM. THE FUNDS
RECEIVED FROM THIS OPERATION WERE TO HAVE FINANCED ILLEGAL
OPERATIONS AGAINST LEFTIST TERRORISTS AS WELL AS TO HAVE BEEN
USED FOR PERSONAL PROFIT.)

B025x1

5. [REDACTED] THE ILLEGAL ACTIONS
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF INDICTMENTS AND OTHER POLICE OFFICIALS ARE
KNOWN OUTSIDE THE RANKS OF THE FEDERAL POLICE AND THAT THERE
IS SOME CONCERN THAT THE SCOPE OF THE ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES WILL

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BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE. THOSE DIRECTLY INVOLVED BELIEVE THAT THE POLICE HIERARCHY AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROTECT THEM AND WILL SUPPRESS ANY INFORMATION WHICH BECOMES KNOWN ON THE SUBJECT. NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS SOME FEAR THAT A TERRORIST GROUP WILL ABDUCT ONE OF THE POLICE OFFICIALS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE ILLEGAL OPERATIONS AND FORCE HIM TO MAKE A FULL CONFESSION. THIS WOULD PROBABLY CREATE A MAJOR SCANDAL AND IMPAIR THE CAPABILITY OF THE POLICE TO MOVE LEGALLY AGAINST THE TERRORISTS IN THE FUTURE.

6.

EO25x1

SOME 50 TO 60 MEN WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDICTMENTS ARE INVOLVED IN THE ILLEGAL OPERATIONS--OUT OF A COMPLEMENT OF 120 MEN. THE RECENT APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER INSPECTOR ~~HECTOR~~ JAMES TOY AS CHIEF OF THE INDICTMENTS DEPARTMENT IS REGARDED AS A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT, SINCE HE UNDERSTANDS THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS INVOLVED IN THE "GANGLAND" APPROACH TO COUNTERSUBVERSIVE OPERATIONS AND WILL PROBABLY ATTEMPT TO RESTRAIN THE AMOUNT OF ILLEGAL OPERATIONS AND PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THE LEGITIMATE ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE MAJORITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INDICTMENTS PERSONNEL. COMMISSIONER MAJOR JORGE JOSE ~~C~~ R. D. V E T T O, WHO REPLACED RAMIREZ AS THE DE FACTO OPERATIONS CHIEF OF FEDERAL SECURITY, IS ALSO REGARDED

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AS A COMPETENT OFFICER WHO WILL INSIST UPON TRADITIONAL POLICE
INVESTIGATIONS TO COUNTER THE EXTREMIST THREAT. [REDACTED]

COMMENT: THE ONLY NEGATIVE ASPECT IS THAT BOTH MEN ARE SENIOR
OFFICIALS WHO MAY BE REQUIRED TO RETIRE AT THE END OF 1975.)

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